

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Western District of New York*

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# PRESS RELEASE

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the awarding of Federal aid to six recipients under the Department of Justices “Reducing Gun Violence: Project Safe Neighborhoods Program.” The following organizations will receive funding pursuant to a 2003 Open Solicitation:

- 1) Erie County Probation Department will receive funding in the amount of \$140,479.00 ;
- 2) Monroe County Probation Department will receive funding in the amount of \$160,000.00 ;
- 3) The State University of New York at Buffalo's “University Community Initiative” will receive funding in the amount of \$50,000.00 ;

- 4) The Boys and Girls Club of Dunkirk will receive funding in the amount of \$16,728.00 ;
- 5) Madd Dads of Greater Buffalo will receive funding in the amount of \$27,385.00; and
- 6) Grace Community Church of Rochester will receive funding in the amount of \$9,850.00.

The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, as fiscal agent, will administer the grant. The grant is to be administered over a three year period.

Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN), or Project Exile as it is known in Rochester, NY, is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun violence in America. United States Attorney Michael A. Battle stated that, “PSN offers an important opportunity to enhance our community specific approaches to gun violence by funding locally crafted, innovative responses to the problem. The grant recipients, by enacting the programs enumerated in their concept papers, will contribute to the District’s overall strategy to fight gun crime.”

Erie County and Monroe County Probation Departments have been key partners in the Project Safe Neighborhood/ Project Exile since its inception. Erie County Probation has been part of the PSN Notification, a preventive strategy component of PSN. Probationers and parolees are required to attend a mandatory session which notifies them

about PSN. The Erie County Probation Department refers sixty percent of all offenders to the program. The Monroe County Probation Department as part of Project Exile has ongoing involvement in programs which seek intervention with probationers who have been convicted of crimes involving guns and are under probation supervision.

The University Community Initiative has been an active partner in Project Safe Neighborhoods strategy planning and measurement. Through statistical analysis, the University Community Initiative has analyzed hot spots of criminal activity; measured the success of programs implemented in the District and aided in formulating approaches to continuing education and outreach.

The Boys and Girls Club of Dunkirk, MADD DADDS of Greater Buffalo and Grace Community Church of Rochester are new partners in the Project Safe Neighborhood effort. Each of these organizations will support community outreach efforts and bring exciting new vision to our strategy.

U.S. Attorney Michael Battle also has been notified that the Western District of New York has been awarded 2004 funding and, it is anticipated, that this funding will be distributed within the next few months.

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